

SPRING WILL BE HERE SOON!

RIPRAP

Conserve. Protect. Restore.

VOLUME SEVEN
issue 8 April 2013

A MOSTLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

THE DRIFT Words from Our President.

As this is being written, the snow is melting fast. The deep snow this winter insulated the ground so that it did not freeze very deep. Result: the melting snow is soaking in and replenishing the groundwater instead of running off and causing floods. It's nice to win one once in a while.

By the time you read this, the winter brush & tree cutting should be complete. We cleared box elders and other undesirables from a stretch of Parker Creek as well as the site of our coming project on the Trimble. By burning the limbs, tops, and some dry dead tree trunks we have saved considerable work (and cost) for the DNR. Most work days saw about a dozen volunteers working. **Randy Arnold** has done a great job of organizing the work, and has personally cut a large percentage of the trees.

Easements:

Some of the neighbors along the Trimble are very pleased with the work that was done last year. There is a good possibility that they will grant or sell easements for additional work. The easements would include fishing. The DNR budget has been revised for this two-year cycle, giving them direction to acquire more easements instead of purchasing blocks of land. In addition,

the process will be streamlined significantly: instead of talking about an easement, then waiting for an appraisal before continue negotiations with the landowner, there will be pre-determined valuations per foot of stream bank. Thus, the landowner will receive a firm offer early in the discussion.

Dams:

The re-licensing process for the dams in River Falls has begun. This happens once every 30 years. The licenses expire in 2018 and the process takes 5 years. There will be extensive studies of the potential effects on fish and the economics of continuation vs removal.

Corridor Maintenance:

Marty Engel has scheduled people and equipment to mow some of the earlier project sites this summer. Timing is critical. For example the best time to mow wild parsnip is just before it goes to seed.

Elections:

At the last Kiap chapter meeting, we held our annual election of board members. **Maria Manion** was elected to the board; she is becoming involved with grant writing and will be a good asset. **Bob Trevis** and I were re-elected to three year terms. **Greg Meyer** is retiring

from the board and will be missed. He has furnished deep insights into thorny questions we sometimes face.

Poll:

Also at the last meeting, we took a poll to gauge the feelings of those present regarding some proposed changes to the Wisconsin trout season. Results were somewhat mixed, but generally in favor of opening the catch-and-release season earlier (January 1) but not extending the season further into the fall. **Henry Koltz**, state trout unlimited chairman, stated that this is similar to the feelings of other chapters around the state.

Upcoming Chapter Meeting:

The annual fly tying meeting will be held on April 2 at the Stone Tap, located in downtown Hudson. Members of the **St. Paul Fly Tiers** will demonstrate some techniques.

We seem to be getting more and more opportunities to speak to students in middle schools and high schools.

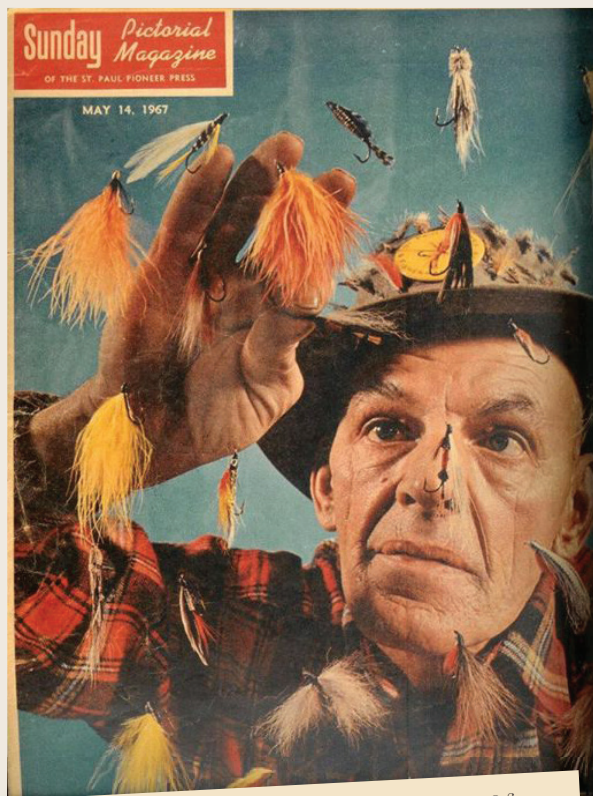
Enough said. 🐟

~Tom Henderson

NOTE: Change in Chapter Meeting Venue.
The April 2nd meeting is at Stone Tap Pub in downtown Hudson.

Held in Memory of "Dry Fly" Dick Frantes

[Kiap-TU-Wish Fly Tying Meeting]



SPFT Founder Ben Egger on cover of
St. Paul Pioneer Press Sunday Magazine.



{ IMAGES COURTESY OF ~St. Paul Fly Tiers }

IN OUR ANNUAL TRIBUTE to the art of fly tying and to the memory of "Dry Fly" Dick Frantes, who could we better draw on as a source of tiers than members of a fly tying club? And not just any old club, but one of the nation's most established and most enduring (and endearing) clubs! That's the St. Paul Fly Tiers and Fisherman's Club, which has a rich history reaching back more than sixty years. While our chapter has long drawn on the Club's members to tie for us, particularly in the years when DFDF was rounding up "volunteers," this may be the first time we've dedicated the tying tables to its members.

The club was founded in 1952 by the legendary Ben Egger, who had tied commercially and taught fly tying classes. Minnesota was far off the fly fishing map at the time, which meant that tiers had a difficult time finding local sources for materials, tools, hooks, thread, and so on. Thus, along with spreading the fly tying gospel, one of the club's purposes was to create a buying combine so the club could source products for its members. There was undoubtedly a goodly amount of swapping and sharing of natural materials gathered personally by the membership. One member, Andy Miner, took to raising and breeding his own roosters for their hackle. If the name Miner seems familiar, it's because you see it today on packages of hackle produced by industry leader Whiting Farms, who thought enough of the quality of the feathers to acquire the genetics to produce it. You can learn more about the fascinating history of the club and its modern day activities by visiting their web site.

The club meets weekly on Thursdays at Schroeder's Bar and Grill, which is located near Dale and Front in the heart of St. Paul.

At the tying tables at the April Kiap-TU-Wish meeting this year we have as our guest from the club **Bob Anderson** of St. Paul, **Tony Stifter** of Blaine, **Andy Fiskness** of Maplewood, **Joel Ebberts** of West St. Paul, and **Josh Alters** and **Greg Meyer**, both of Hudson. We're looking to see a couple of surprise tiers there as well.

Please be aware that the meeting will be held at a new location, Stone Tap, in downtown Hudson.

To tip our cap to Mr. Frantes, I want to say that, in addition to being an ardent and effective conservationist, Dick was, to put it mildly, a personality. It's not surprising to me, then, that in thinking of a term to best describe how most members of the St. Paul Fly Tiers Club seemed to regard him, the neologism "frenemy" comes first to mind, probably because while Dick did not tie flies, he was a world class expert in the art of mooching them. RIP, DFDf; there aren't any more like you! 🐟

~ Jonathan Jacobs

DID YOU KNOW?...

To send you RipRap this year we'll hand apply a total of 3,240 first-class postage stamps and 6,480 pieces of cellophane tape.

The total number of pages printed by a gracious donor this year is over 30,000.

About the St. Paul Fly Tiers

Want to swap stories and learn more about fly fishing and fly tying? Since its inception more than 60 years ago, the St. Paul Fly Tier's & Fishermen's Club has been a source of learning, sharing and activities related to fly tying and fishing. The club welcomes anyone 21 years old or over who is interested in fly tying and fly fishing.

History

The club was formed in 1952 by interested fly fishers and casters. It is the oldest fly tying and fishing club in the Midwest. Members of the club created many popular fly patterns and fly tying methods.

A non-profit organization dedicated to sharing the camaraderie that our sport embodies. The club is composed of many great people from many different walks of life who share the common bond of fly tying (or the desire to learn) and fishing with the fly.

The organization was founded prior to the commercial availability of the materials, equipment, and information necessary to fuel tying and fly fishing passions. Originally one of their purposes was to provide a source for furs, feathers and other materials almost impossible to find in the '50's and '60's. Now they work with all local fly shops to promote our sport and encourage all to patronize them fully.

They just don't tie flies!

In addition to swapping stories, telling lies, and tying flies, they also have Program Nights (with guest speakers & presentations) on the first Thursday of the month.

They also schedule Club outings throughout the year, striving for excellent adventure and camaraderie with plenty of good food served to all that partake in these wonderful outings.

Meetings

They'll share fly tying methods, swap fishing stories, listen to guest speakers, and do a bit of necessary business. Meetings start at 7:30 PM on most Thursday nights, in the upstairs banquet room of Schroeder's Bar & Grill on Front Street in St. Paul. Membership is only \$20 per year.



For more information:

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e: stpaulflytiers@gmail.com
w: www.stpaulflytiers.com

~Greg Meyer

["DRY FLY" DICK FRANTES]

[WORDS BY Perry Palin]

It's been twenty years since "Dry Fly" Dick Frantes left us to walk the banks of that sweet Driftless stream in the sky. It's hard to believe it's been that long.

On a warm spring evening in the early 80's I was fishing on the Upper Kinni and hoping for a hatch. I was still within sight of the bridge when a green Suburban drove up, and a young man got out and put on his waders. The Suburban turned around in the road and left, and then the young man walked around me and began fishing about thirty yards upstream of my location. I wasn't very happy about that, but the only thing to do was retreat to the road and fish below the bridge. The story developed exactly how I hoped it would. I found a hatch, caught over a dozen trout, and they were bigger than they are now on the Upper Kinni, and I only quit when my dry fly was waterlogged and my flashlight gave out. I struggled back to the road and found the owner of the Suburban drinking a beer on the tailgate. I didn't want to talk to him, but he called me over. He said he didn't have a spare beer, the one in the cooler was for his young companion still upstream, but I was welcome to a taste of his blackberry flavored spider bite preventative. That was how I met Dry Fly Dick Frantes. Dick had fished downstream somewhere and caught nothing, and when his rider returned to the road we learned that he had only seen a few caddis, and caught two fish. It wasn't the last time Dick put me onto some fish, intentionally or not.

Dick fished all over Wisconsin and in the Minnesota Driftless, and he caught and documented thousands of trout. He didn't like to share exactly where he caught his fish, and he had secret code names for some streams. He had spent a lifetime researching his streams, and he didn't want to give them away. When Jim Humphrey's article about the Kinnickinnic ran in Fly Fisherman Magazine, Dick was incensed. Why invite everyone in the country in to fish our streams? Dick was in favor of the category system, but when he learned that the state would give out color coded guidebooks, Dick was outraged. Here was his life's work, sold for the price of a trout stamp. Still, Dick was willing to share with the people that rode along with him in the Suburban. He showed me a few places to fish.

Dick ran his second business, Frantes Fine Flies and Folderol, out of the back of the Frantes and Sons Plumbing Shop on Smith Avenue. I think Frantes Fine Flies was an attempt to fish 100 days a year and claim the costs as a business loss. The IRS didn't buy it. I tied flies for Dick for years, learning to tie better flies and trading them at an attractive exchange rate for about a cubic yard of fly tying



Admissions desk, April 1979, Kiaptuwish TU Clinic, School House in Hudson. Where else can you use St. Paul Fly Tiers non-tiers? Ted a 1981 member of the board of directors of Kiaptuwish



material. Dick sold my flies, jealously guarding his middleman position, and he didn't want me to even talk to Dr. Ivan Schloff, one of his best customers.

Dick cut a strange figure on the stream, wearing a pair of canvas work pants on the outside of his rubber waders, a tattered vest and stained pith helmet. Dick acted

{ IMAGES COURTESY OF ~St. Paul Fly Tiers}

like a curmudgeon, hard bitten and self centered. There was evidence that this was an act. I knew a woman who had been a school classmate of Dick's wife Jean, and she told me that Dick was generous with his time and his money on the arts, and that he looked handsome in his tuxedo at charitable foundation social events. He was embarrassed when I caught him picking up trash, a morning ritual for him, in Cherokee Park near his West St. Paul home. That didn't match his carefully cultivated curmudgeonly persona.

I saw Dick in action at some contentious meetings of the St. Paul Fly Tiers and Fishermen's Club. He was tenacious in his advocacy, and stood up to anyone and if necessary, to everyone. The story later was that he had been thrown out of the Club. He didn't want to talk about it, but he didn't argue with that view either.

Dick introduced me to Kiap-TU-Wish. He liked the blue collar nature

of the group and the fact that the members rolled up their sleeves to do habitat improvement. Dick served Kiap-TU-Wish in a number of ways. The one I remember best was as the organizer of the door prize. Dick thought it was a good addition to the meetings, and he strong armed fly tiers for donations. I recall an April meeting when he announced that all flies tied by the demonstrators would go to the door prize bank, and at the end of the meeting he collected the night's production. After Dick passed, Chuck Goossen took up the door prize chores. I'm happy to give flies for the door prize. It always makes me smile when I hear it, a fitting remembrance, the call for The Dick Frantes Memorial Door Prize. 🐝

{ ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

Perry Palin is an author, a Kiap-TU-Wish chapter member and frequent contributor to RipRap. He also generously ties and donates flies that are given away at our monthly chapter meetings for the "Dry Fly" Dick Frantes Memorial Door Prize.

RUMOURS....

Time flies so fast after youth is past that we cannot accomplish one half the many things we have in mind or indeed one half our duties. The only safe and sensible plan is to make other things give way to the essentials, and the first of these is fly fishing.

~ Theodore Gordon.

Brushing Volunteers

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the volunteers who have shown up to help out with our two brushing projects this winter on Parker Creek and the Trimbelle River. The weather has often been less than ideal and the snow depth has often made it difficult to make our way around the worksite as we have worked most either Saturday or Sunday most weekends since the second week of January.

I send out notices via Constant Contact to those members/friends of the Kiap-TU-Wish who have asked to be on the habitat workday volunteers list which currently lists 70 names. Out of those 70, 27 individuals have cared enough to leave the warmth of their homes to devote a portion of their weekends to help out with cutting, dragging, stacking, and burning of mainly box elder trees as we have worked at the two sites this winter. Those individuals are Mike Alwin, Dennis Anderson, Chris Bye, Dave Cumming Sr. & Jr., Greg Dietl, Roy Erickson, David Gregg, Loren Haas,

Ken Hanson, Tom Henderson, Jeff Himes, Jarod & Jordan Hinkley, Dave Johnson, John Kaplan, Bob Lorenzen, Maria Manion, Joey Paxman, George Ruth, Tom Schnadt, Keith Stein, Bob Trevis, Scott Thorpe, Scott Wagner, Dan & Carol Wilcox, and Paul Wright. If I missed listing anyone who has helped out, it is because of my failure to get your name and hours logged in on my daily sign in sheet and for that I sincerely apologize.

Close to 200 volunteer hours were spent at Parker Creek where over 250 box elder trees were cut and burned along with some buckthorn and invasive honey suckle. About 90 volunteer hours have been logged at the Trimbelle River site where close to 150 large box elder trees have been cut down and burned thus far with less than 100 remaining to complete the task of prepping this site for the restoration work which is set to begin here early this year.

It is sometimes frustrating to send out workday notices and to have as few as 5-6 volunteers show up and on

other occasions to have as many as 19 on one Sat. I do appreciate feedback which I receive from those of you on the list and try to make the workdays as accommodating to as many of you as possible. The past few winters we have been mostly stacking up brush from downed trees to be later chipped up or to be buried on site as part of the restoration work. This winter we have had mostly good luck burning up the wood from the downed trees which has also provided a means of keeping warm on some of the colder days as well as serving to roast the hot dogs which have been enjoyed during our lunch breaks.

I hope to wrap up the work at the Trimbelle site within the next two weekends provided that the snow cover on the ground stays in place long enough to allow us to keep burning the downed trees. Take a moment to thank these volunteers for their efforts the next time you encounter them at a Kiap meeting or out fishing on a stream.

– Randy Arnold

ELI'S SPRING STONE HAMMER



This fly mimics the small black stones flies commonly found in this area each spring. It works best between sizes 16-10. It can be swung, dead-drifted or fished up stream. Originally designed as an early season pattern, it will catch fish all season long and is an excellent twilight/night pattern.

FLY RECIPE::

Hook: Size 12 Klinkhammer
Head: 1/8" Black Nickel Bead
Thread: UTC 140 Black
Weight: .025" Lead Wire
Tail: Black Pheasant tail
Thorax: Peacock Herl and Silver Flash
Abdomen: Super Fine Dubbin - Black
Legs: Round Rubber - Small Black or Black Pheasant Tail

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1** [Thread bead onto hook] Start by wrapping the thread down the hook shank to just above the tip of the barb. Tie in 6-8 pheasant tail fibers the length of the gap of the hook.
- 2** Tie in superfine dubbin. Aim for a carrot shaped taper the length of the tail.
- 3** Tie in two peacock herl and a piece of silver flash. Make 3-4 wraps with the herl and secure the fibers.
- 4** Tie in the first pair of legs. Make 3-4 wraps with the herl in front of the legs. Repeat this process for the second pair of legs.
- 5** Pull the flash over the top of the two sets of legs and secure the flash. Tie in two more herl fibers and trim all excess.
- 6** Make several wraps of herl and build up behind the bead. Tie in the last pair of legs. Tie in one herl fiber and make 2-3 wraps just behind the bead.
- 7** Whip finish and cut away the thread. Slowly add light coats of UV resin to the back of the fly. Build up "bubble" to the desired size and shape. Try to keep the bubble as minimal yet smooth as possible.
- 8** Trim rubber legs to desired length. (Roughly 2/3 length of the tail).

Brian Smolinski is the owner of Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls. If you have questions on this fly or materials, he can be reached by email at: lunds@sbcbglobal.net.

Overheard....

When artful flies the Angler would prepare,

This task of all deserves his utmost care:

Nor verse nor prose can ever teach him well

What masters only know, and practice tell;

Yet thus at large I venture to support,

Nature best followed best secures the sport:

Of flies the kinds; their seasons, and the breed,

Their shapes, their hue, with nice observance heed:

Which most the Trout admires, and where obtained,

Experience will teach, or perchance some friend.

~Thomas Salter
The Anglers Guide

FLY TYING TIPS



Use Peacock Eyes for Smaller Flies

When tying small flies with peacock herl, select pieces of herl from a peacock eye. Strung peacock herl is all a uniform large size, but the eye of the feather contains a variety of smaller sizes.

Home Made Hair Stacker

Take an old lipstick container [preferably a metal one] and clean it out thoroughly. If you use a solvent to rid the greasy lip goo, let sit for a few days.

After it is clean and ready to go, place your hair in the container, cover, and tamp down. Remove the cover and then twist the container bottom clockwise, the hair will rise and be ready to grab.

Magnetize Your Scissors

This tip is helpful for many situations around the bench.

If you stroke your tying scissors several times across the face of a permanent magnet, or and simply let them sit for a few days with a magnet attached, they will themselves become magnetic.

Now with your magnetic scissors, you can pick up the tiniest of hooks [and flies] quickly and easily.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have a fly tying tip, please mail me at: kiaptuwish@hotmail.com



BLEND A LOT OF DUBBING.

It's not because I think that the straight out of the pack store bought stuff isn't any good, I apparently just enjoy making things harder on myself. The problem with making your own dubbing blends that I have found is that I also apparently can not follow a recipe, or record a recipe of my own for something I am creating. I mix something up, mix a little more, then add a tiny pinch more of this or that. Since I was always just grabbing a little of this or that, I would mix it by hand, so what I would end up with was enough of a blend for maybe half a dozen flies. Then of course, next time I went to tie that fly it would always come out different since I could never get the blend uniform and the same mix as before.

So I told myself this winter that I was going blend up large quantities of my dubbing blends, enough to have a stock

pile of each blend that would last me a few years. And of course I told myself that they would all be neatly labeled so I knew exactly what blend went with which fly pattern and so on. The thing I knew was that actually mixing large amounts of dubbing wouldn't be easy. You really can't do it by hand. I have seen guys use two wire brushes made for combing dog hair to mix it up and I have used other peoples home made coffee grinders to blend dubbing. Neither one of those methods really excited me for some reason, but I bit the bullet and went to the hardware store and bought one of those cheap proctor and gamble coffee grinders that you can get just about anywhere for right around ten bucks. Then I set into making a cover for the top of the grinder. That is one of the flaws of this method is that if you use the lid as is, all the dubbing fibers just float up into the empty space and don't get down into the blades of the thing.

Anyway, I got it together and mixed up my first batch and it worked—sort of.

After a few long pulses my mixture was mostly blended. The problem I found is that certain types of dubbing blend perfectly, while other types blend just okay. They mix up, but in little tiny clumps which making use of them a bit difficult. I spent extra time while tying separating the fibers in able to dub the mixture tighter to my thread. The solution came by taking an old small fish bowl type of merchandiser from the shop and connecting it to a can of compressed air used for dusting electronics. I used a plastic container that is round, I think a pint sized plastic food container would also be great. Especially the cheap deli style ones, as long as they have a tight fitting lid.

Start by putting the lid on the container. Pop a whole mess of holes in the lid with a needle or bodkin, the smaller the better. You need a way for air to escape the container, but not large enough for dubbing fibers to get stuck in. Then enlarge one of the holes just big enough to fit the extension straw though that connects to the compressed air can. Fill container with dubbing and pull the trigger on the air can, the force of the air moving around the container perfectly blends the mixture. Even better is the dubbing is super light and fluffy, making it the easiest dubbing to apply since none of the fibers are clumped and matted together! 🐇

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DID YOU KNOW?...

Your annual dues goes directly to National TU—not KiapTU.

Kiap gets its funding from grants and donations— the Kiap Spring Appeal brings in approximately half of our annual operating revenue.



Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter #168
P.O. Box 483
Hudson, WI 54016

**Kiap-TU-Wish Annual
“Dry Fly” Dick Frantes
Memorial Fly Tying
Meeting**

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014
Stone Tap Gastro Pub
Downtown Hudson

Dinner begins at 6pm (your dime)
with the meeting to follow at 7pm.

Check us out on the web:
www.kiaptuwish.org

